

Filipino-American Sampaguita
Club of Tucson



First Quarter
Jan. Feb. March 2026
Issue I



Sampaguita E-News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Norie Mayo



Maligayang Araw FASCOT family,

Our 2026 is off to a great start! Thanks to you! We combined our First Board and General Membership meeting on Feb. 21st, 2026 with a fun and party twist. New members joined and we set our objectives.

We also came together for the AAR cleanup. We celebrated FASCOT's 25 years of our service!

This summer let's have Philippines KALAYAAN and support FASCOT's first Fundraising Event 2026.

Mark your calendar for June 13, 2026. We'd love to see you there.

Maraming salamat!

* This article was printed as submitted without broad copy editing at the request of the writer.



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Neneng B. Fassler

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"There were more prizes than the number of members who attended the AAR Clean up Day! How we wish to see you in the next AAR. Mariles is serious when she announces giveaways to everybody."

- Bing & Rene Contaoi

Joe & I would like to thank ALL the volunteers who participated at our AAR this morning! Special thanks also to our donors for the Raffle prizes.

Norie Riecher's term: 2017

- NICK SUBONG SARI-SARI STORE**
- PAMILIHAN ASIAN STORE**
- TUK TUK RESTAURANT**
- JOHN & MAGGIE PAZ**
- ERIC & LUZ STAPP**
- NORIE & ERIC RIECHERS**
- JOE & MARILES ABONG**

Thank you to all AAR Coordinators past and present:

2001-2019 Doug Wiggins, 2020-2022 Terry Milligan, 2023-2024 Rebecca Diaz, 2025-2026 Eric Stapp

2001 Team: Pres. Joe Abong, Vice-Pres. Tony Sy, 2nd VP Tetchie Garcia, Treas. Ted Gadigan, Assist. Treas. . Shoney Trajano, Secretary: Susan Thomas, Assist. Sec. Lenie Krauter, Board of Directors, Amado Arrieta, Susan Liang, Dr. Gus Posadas, Advisors: Bing Contaoi, Alice Polintan, Doug Wiggins



Thank you, Doug for your service!

Note: Aside from the AAR, the club during this period had also volunteered at Ronald McDonald House, a home of families with children who are facing serious illness or injuries.

A few participants were interviewed including Susan Liang, Rose Miller, Emelyn Eubanks, Trini Sumpter, Hermie Maxon, Priscilla Chenault, and the youngest among the group, Alison Sherwood who commented, "Makes you feel you're connected to the Tucson community to advocate for a clean environment, it's a good exercise, and we enjoy the camaraderie." - Neneng B. Fassler

From all of us to Joe and Marilies Abong, "Thank you for your continued support!"

ADOPT-A-ROADWAY April 11, 2026



Joe & Mariles Abong had designed the new banner.



Let's get to work!

Current FASCOT President Norie Mayo joined the celebration, along with Joe Abong, Susan Liang, Bing Contaoi, Neneng B. Fassler, Manol Oswald, Lita Doss, Nori Riechers, and Luz Stapp,



FASCOT STORAGE INVENTORY TASK FORCE 2026

2026 Executive Board and Advisors

President:
Norie Mayo

President Elect:
Emelyn Eubanks

1st Vice-Pres.
Lita Doss

2nd VP
Myla Dinwiddie

Secretary:
Maggie Paz

Assist. Sec.
Susan Liang

Treasurer:
Phil Harms

Assist. Treas.
Ann Gerson

Board of Directors:
Robert Hamburger,
Chris Hall, Carmen
Norsworthy, Eric
Stapp, Luz Stapp

Advisors:
Judge Marylou Na-
tividad, Manol Os-
wald, Nori Riechers,
Neneng Fassler

Committees:

**Donation to Sister Jo-
se Chairs:** Carmen
Norsworthy, Hermie
Maxon
Member: Mariles
Abong, Neneng B.
Fassler



ANNOUNCEMENT!

Kalayaan/Fundraising Event for FASCOT 2026

Theme: East Meets West (Filipino Spanish American Cultural Fusion)

Venue: The ST. ODILIA Parish HALL

**Address: 7570 N. Paseo del Norte
Oro Valley, AZ 85704**

Date: June 13, 2026 (Sat.) Time: 5-9 PM (10 PM)

**Attire: Modern Filipiniana, Barong Semi-Formal
a Western Influenced FASHION**

General Admission ticket: \$50

Others: 17 to 6 years old: \$25

Free: 5 years old and below

With deepest sympathy



*FASCOT extends our condolence to the be-
reaved family of Josie Wiggins.*

*Manang Josie is remembered for her being true to herself,
kind, accommodating and always supporting her husband,
Doug.*

*Both Manang Josie and Doug were loyal members of
FASCOT.*

Encounter with a Princess

The 1970s and 190s marked a significant period of construction in the Middle East's oil-rich nations, particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). During this era, high-rise commercial properties and large-scale hospitals composed of concrete and steel were built continuously.

My initial professional assignment was at a newly constructed hospital in Medina, considered the second holiest city in Saudi Arabia. In my capacity as the individual responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of all electrical equipment, I ensured the reliability of essential systems within the facility.

In 1978, the hospital staffed a limited number of Egyptian medical professionals alongside five Filipina nurses. Only two floors were operational for patient care, while the third floor temporarily served as nurses' accommodation, and the fourth level was reserved for special guests.

On one occasion, the director requested my assistance in evaluating the functionality of a television and video player on the fourth floor. Upon inspection, I identified that the NTSC-labeled VHS tapes were incompatible with the existing equipment. I recommend procuring modern, compatible devices from Riyadh.

Subsequently, the director and I traveled to Riyadh, acquired the necessary equipment, and returned to Medina that afternoon. After installing and testing the new system, I demonstrated its capabilities by playing tapes from UK, France, and the United States, which met the client's expectations.

During the demonstration, a woman in a red veil entered, introducing herself fluently in English and expressing interest in the system operation. She later revealed that she was the Princess of Medina, daughter of the Prince. Impressed by the technology, she requested instructions for operating the audiovisual equipment and switching between playback and local broadcasts, which at the time featured animated content and religious programming.

Following this interaction, the princess contacted me several more times without an escort. On one occasion, she requested a demonstration involving music and dance, which I courteously declined to do alone. Her response was lighthearted and cordial.

Before her departure to Switzerland for further education, she asked if there was anything I required. I respectfully requested to see her face; she briefly lifted her veil, revealing her features. I expressed my gratitude for her trust and courtesy.

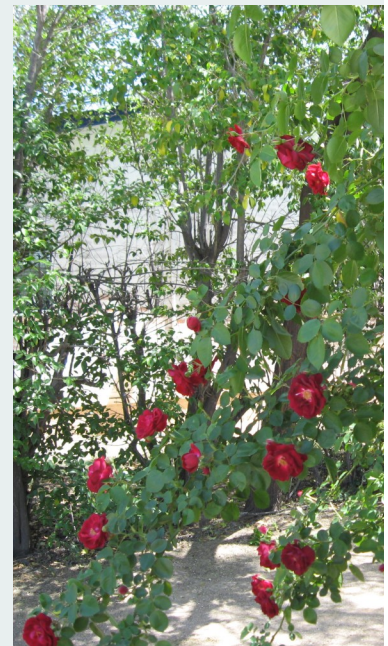
This experience remains vivid in my memory, resembling a scene from a film, yet it was a genuine and formative event in my career.

- Rene Contaio



CELEBRANTS

- 04/02 Marven Bangoy
- 04/08 Emelyn Eubanks
- 04/14 Annie Tudu
- 04/16 Petra Conklin
- 04/30 Neneng B. Fassler
- ***
- 05/01 Hermie Maxon
- 05/26 Myla Dinwiddie





We extend our love, peace and comfort to Priscilla for the loss of her husband, Wayne Hunt.

Wayne was an inspiration to all of us from the Sampaguita Dance Group. His strong support and admiration of Philippine culture was always appreciated. He was humble, kind and helpful. Wayne Hunt will be truly missed.

Priscilla is the lead dancer of our cultural group.

The Filipino-American
Sampaguita Club of Tucson

Editor-in-Chief
Neneng Babanto Fassler

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Reflections

I've finally found the significant space I've never gone before.

- Neneng Babanto Fassler



Photo taken by FASCOT President, Norie Mayo.
Camera: Mariles Abong 04/11/2026